

628 of the murdered man, and a feud would be set up between them  
682 and the local group to which the murderer belonged. Such was  
one of the common causes of origin of the petty warfare that  
formerly existed in the Andamans, which will be referred to  
later in the present chapter.

627 Cases of theft seem to have been rare. It was left to the  
• 685 aggrieved person to take vengeance upon the thief, but if he  
killed him or seriously wounded him he would have to expect  
the possible vengeance of the relatives and friends. Adultery  
627 was regarded as a form of theft. I gathered that a man had the  
684 right to punish his wife for unfaithfulness, but if the punishment  
were too severe it would be an occasion for a quarrel with her  
relatives. It was difficult for the aggrieved husband to punish  
the man who had offended against him. If he killed him he  
would lay himself open to the revenge of the relatives. The  
most he could do was to vent his anger in violent words.

578 Women also occasionally quarrel with one another and swear  
626 forcibly at one another, or even get so far as to destroy one  
another's belongings, or to fight with their fists or sticks. The  
men hesitate to interfere, and the quarrel can only be stopped  
by some woman of influence.

The frequent occurrence of serious quarrels is prevented both  
by the influence of the older men and by the fear that everyone  
has of the possible vengeance of others should he in any way  
offend them.

183 There are a number of actions which, while they do not  
626 offend any particular person, are regarded as being anti-social.  
One of these is laziness. Every man is expected to take his  
proper share in providing both himself and others with food.  
Should a man shirk this obligation, nothing would be said to  
him, unless he were a young unmarried man, and he would still  
be given food by others, but he would find himself occupying a  
position of inferiority in the camp, and would entirely lose the  
esteem of his fellows. Other qualities or actions that result  
in a similar loss of esteem are marital unfaithfulness, lack of  
respect to others and particularly to elders, meanness or niggard-  
liness, and bad temper. One man was mentioned to me as  
being a bad man because he refused to take a wife after he had